

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Average age to begin smoking is 12
 Average age of first use of alcohol is 14
 Average age of first use of Marijuana is 14
 Average age of first use of inhalants is 13

Child Abuse

Every day in 1995, nearly 100 children were reported abused or neglected in Tennessee. Eighty-five percent of the perpetrators of the abuse were parents, stepparents, grandparents, siblings, other relatives or adoptive parents. There were 35,278 alleged cases in Tennessee in 1995, of those 12,007 (34%) were verified.

In 1996, there were a total of 520 indicated cases of child abuse and/or neglect in Northwest Tennessee. In Gibson County there were 93 indicated cases of child abuse and/or neglect.

Cancer:

Malignant Neoplasm was the second leading cause of death in Gibson County during 1994. There were a total of 119 deaths attributed to Malignant Neoplasms. This translates into a rate of 263.9 per 100,000 of the population.

- 90 - of the deaths occurred in the age group 65+.
- 23 - of the deaths occurred in the age group 45-64.
- 5 - of the deaths occurred in the age group 25-44.
- 1 - of the deaths occurred in the age group 15-24.

Malignant Neoplasm was the second leading cause of death in Tennessee during 1994.

A total of 11,405 deaths were attributed to Malignant Neoplasm. This translates into a rate of 228.2 per 100,000 of the population.

A look at the 9 year period 1986-1994

Average Number of Deaths for 3 year Periods Shown

	1986-88	1989-91	1992-94
Malignant Neoplasm	126	127	130

Age-Adjusted Cancer Incidents Rates 1995- Gibson County

Type	Total	Male	Female
All Cases	222	112	110
Oral Cavity	5	3	2
Esophagus	2	1	1
Stomach	7	4	3
Colon	31	16	15
Rectum	11	8	3
Pancreas	8	2	6
Lung	33	18	15
Bone	0	0	0
Melanomas	8	5	3
Female Breast	32	0	32
Cervix	1	0	1
Corpus Uteri	5	0	5
Ovary	1	0	1
Prostate	18	18	0
Testis	2	2	0
Bladder	8	6	2
Kidney	7	4	3
Nervous System	2	2	0
Hodgkins's Disease	0	0	0
Non-Hodgkins Lym.	11	7	4
Myelonas	2	1	1
Leukemia	5	1	4
Other Sites	23	14	9